

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
October 5, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:00 P.M. and the roll was called.

Present

Mr. James Culyer, *President*
Mr. Stephen Feeney, *Vice President*
Ms. Sarah Mariani
Mr. Joshua Nathan
Mr. George Pratt
Ms. Victoria Sterling
Mr. Robert Zahm

And Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Daniel McCann, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Robert Walsh, Assistant Superintendent

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to adjourn into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, the discussion of pending litigation, and the discussion of negotiations.

Upon reconvening in public at 8:05 P.M., on a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (7-0), Mr. Culyer welcomed those present.

Mr. Culyer said he was pleased to announce that the Board and the Rye Teachers Association had signed a tentative three-year agreement that next had to be reviewed by the union membership, so her therefore had no further comment, except to thank District attorney, Jay Siegal, Dr. Shine, and the RTA negotiators for their efforts during the negotiation process.

Mr. Culyer then explained for those residents watching the meeting on television who therefore did not have the printed meeting guide as a reference the purpose of the hearing of the public on non-agenda items and then called for the hearing of the public on non-agenda items.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

A member of the public who identified herself as a Midland PTO Co-President offered thanks to the Board for their commitment to moving along the additions and alterations at the elementary schools, but said she wanted to express the concern of Midland parents about the loss of Midland's south playground in the planned new construction. She asked the Board to considering shifting the plan. She said they felt this would represent a cost savings. She offered other suggestions for preserving green space and providing safety.

Mr. Culyer thanked her for her suggestions and said the administration would look at them and respond to her. Dr. Shine said he would clarify the points with the PTO Co-

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President and ask her to submit a communication to the Board on these suggestions. Mr. Culyer reiterated this request; Dr. Shine said they would work together to structure the process.

Mr. Nathan asked whether there would be a delay in responding; Dr. Shine said there was a construction meeting scheduled for the following day.

Ms. Mariani asked whether there wasn't space at Rye Recreation to accommodate Midland students.

Mr. Pratt said he seconded Ms. Mariani's suggestions and that he had questions about the District's relationship with the Recreation Department, feeling it was more and more a one-way street.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer announced that Action-General Item 1, the Minutes of the Board's meeting of September 19, the Minutes of the Board's meeting of September 21, and the recommendation to approve policy suspension for Policy 7900, Use of Permanent Lighting, would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the following items:

Action – General

- The Strategic Plan for 2004-2005. (Attachment I)

Action – Fiscal

1. Budget Transfer #3 in the amount of \$18,200.00 to cover transportation cost of special education student going to a private school and to cover the cost of nine days emergency transportation contract. (Attachment IIa)
2. Budget Transfer #4 in the amount of \$48,113.00 from tuition, private school budget to transportation budget for contracts awarded at the Board of Education meeting on August 31, 2004. (Attachment IIb)

Action - Personnel

1. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement At Large Appointment of Deborah Sherman, for which she has New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary Pre K-6, 1.0 FTE, BA + 15 Step 5 of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, prorated, pending contract agreement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective October 12, 2004 – June 30, 2005.
2. The appointment of Jared Fishman, as Teaching Assistant, .9 FTE, assigned to Rye
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School of Leadership, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective September 8, 2004.

3. The appointment of Guillermina DeRiggi as a Special Education Teacher Aide (.7 FTE), with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Midland School, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours/day, 2 days/week, effective September 9, 2004.
4. The appointment of Lucille Lambiasi as a part-time Special Education Teacher Aide (.7 FTE), with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Milton School, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 4 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective September 7, 2004.
5. The Appointment of Susan Thornton-Smith as a Special Education Teacher Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Midland School, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective September 27, 2004.
6. The appointment of Sabrina Alampi as a Teacher Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Milton School, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective September 14, 2004.
7. The Extra Pay for Extra Work assignments for the 2004-2005 school year per the attached. (Attachment III)

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of April 14, 2004 for Student ID#411; from its meeting of June 4, 2004 for Student ID#313; from its meeting of July 12, 2004 for Student ID#297; from its meeting of September 1, 2004 for Student ID#458; and from its meeting of September 3, 2004 for Student ID#404.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of July 13, 2004 for Student ID#911872; from its meetings of July 22, 2004 for Students ID#911313, 473,k and 474; from its meeting of August 19, 2004 for Student ID#466, from its meeting of August 24, 2004 for Student ID#465, from its meeting of August 30, 2004 for Student ID#912063; from its meetings of September 1, 2004 for Students ID#471, 475, and 477; from its meeting of September 13, 2004 for Student ID#911317; and from its meeting of September 14, 2004 for Student ID#472.

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ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**Action – General**Minutes of September 19, 2004 Board of Education Meeting

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried 6-0-1 with Mr. Nathan abstaining, it was voted to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2004 meeting of the Board.

Minutes of September 21, 2004 Board of Education Meeting

Ms. Mariani said she wished to include more of a description of her communication to the Board in the minutes. The Board discussed various perspectives on this matter. Subsequent to discussion, Ms. Mariani moved that her communication be an attachment to the minutes of September 21, 2004. Mr. Nathan seconded the motion which failed on a vote of 3-4.

Ms. Mariani said she felt Mr. Feeney's comments made as a report on his response to Mr. Mark Gardner should be included in the minutes and moved to amend the minutes to include these comments. Mr. Pratt seconded the motion which carried 6-0-1 with Ms. Sterling abstaining.

Mr. Feeney moved to table the minutes to the agenda of the next meeting. Mr. Pratt seconded the motion. Discussion ensued concerning the motion regarding the elementary additions and alterations decision for modular classrooms at Osborn School.

Mr. Feeney and Mr. Pratt withdrew their motion and second. Ms. Sterling said there had been several versions of suggested wording on this motion in the September 21st minutes and that she had prepared suggested wording to remedy the confusion. She reviewed her recommendation. It was agreed that the minutes would be revised to reflect the vote in question more clearly.

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to table Board action on the minutes of the September 21, 2004 meeting of the Board to the next meeting.

Policy Suspension 7900: Use of Permanent Field Lighting

Dr. Shine reviewed the recommendation to suspend Policy 7900 regarding the use of permanent lighting at John Nugent Stadium. He said that during the summer months the turf field was installed at John Nugent Stadium, explaining that with the turf field installation, approximately 3,500 cubic yards of dirt were moved from the football field to the upper field, allowing for a field upgrade along with the installation of drainage, a sprinkler system and 46,000 square feet of sod. Dr. Shine noted that for the fall and winter athletic seasons, the upper field is fenced off and will not be used until the spring.

He said that a few weeks prior, he had brought to the Board's attention that there was a good deal of tension regarding field space for football practice and the use of the turf field for field hockey and soccer games. He said that football has four teams with 166 students involved: Grade 7 modified with 50 students, grade 8 modified with 41 students, JV with 44 students and varsity with 31 students. Field Hockey has five teams with 89 students: modified Black has 17 students, modified Garnet has 17 students, freshman has 16 students JV has 20 students and Varsity has 19 students. Soccer has four teams with 82 students:

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modified Black 17 students, modified Garnet 17 students, JV 22 students and varsity 25 students.

Dr. Shine said that the loss of the use of the upper field this fall along with the growth in field hockey and the increase in the number of students playing football have created additional tension in a community that is tight for playing fields to begin with. He said that also, now that the turf field is ready for play, some have asked why it is being used for football practice when field hockey and soccer have varsity games to be played.

Dr. Shine reported that generally, field use is as follows:

Football [Practice]

Varsity – Turf Field, unless used for game/upper softball field

JV – Turf Field, unless used for game/upper softball field

Modifieds – Upper softball field [or the field by the brook]

Field Hockey [Practice]

Varsity – Turf Field/Feeley Field

JV – Feeley Field

Modifieds – Milton School Field

Soccer [Practice]

Varsity – Nursery Field [2 days a week]/Rye Rec

JV Rye Rec

Modifieds – Sterling Field

Dr. Shine said that in order to schedule practice and games through the rest of the fall season, Mr. Castagna met with the coaches to see if a reasonable solution exists that they could all support; i.e., a reasonable solution that would allow varsity football to use the turf field for practice [since the softball field is needed for the grade 7 and 8 modified program] and allow field hockey and soccer to use the turf field for games. He said that in order to support that recommendation, the Board needs to consider suspending portions of Board Policy 7900.

He said that Board Policy 7900 states in number 4 “There shall be no more than seven lighted high school athletic competitions at John Nugent Stadium in any school year. Two of such events may be night football games. The athletic director has the discretion to light a junior varsity contest, if necessary, but it will be counted as one of the seven night events. If, on the afternoon of a scheduled night event, another athletic contest is scheduled for Nugent Stadium, light may be used in the afternoon and continue into the evening. In such a case, this would be counted as one event of the seven allowed.”

He said that at number 8, the policy states further: “A maximum of fifteen (15) athletic practices shall be allowed at the Stadium in any given school year. These practices shall be scheduled in the late fall or early spring. They shall end with lights off by 6:30 p.m. and may only be scheduled Monday through Friday.”

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Dr. Shine said that to recognize the space limitations caused by the non-availability of the upper field for football practice and the eagerness the field hockey and soccer teams to use the superb conditions provided by the turf field, he was recommending that the Board use Policy 2430 to suspend provision number 4 [limiting the number of lighted high school competitions to 7] and provision number 8 [use of the lights for practices only with lights off by 6:30 p.m.] for the fall season, 2004. The policy suspension would allow five [5] more night athletic competitions, as recommended by Mr. Castagna and the coaches, during the month of October [starting October 7] with lights off by 7:00 p.m. These five additional events would be substituted for and taken from the 15 allocated for practice but I am requesting an extension to 7:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. to allow for a reasonable amount of time to complete the varsity games. He said that at this time, he was not recommending any change in the provision limiting the number of football games to 2 and he was not recommending any change in the number of night games within the 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. time frame; i.e., limited to 7.

Dr. Shine said that while he was not recommending that the Board amend Policy 7900 at this time, the community's support of the turf field and its installation have opened up a whole new array of use issues for the future. Using the final provisions of Policy 7900, he said, he suggested that the Board should consider re-establishing an Advisory Committee to discuss options with a Committee report to the Board in January, 2005.

Dr. Shine noted that, realizing that communication is a Board of Education priority and realizing the keen interest stadium neighbors have in what occurs at the lighted stadium, he had copies of the agenda item on this recommendation delivered to all Rye High School neighbors with a notice that the policy suspension would be discussed at the October 5 Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Shine then recommended that the Board use Policy 2430 to suspend provision number 4 and provision number 8 of Policy 7900 allowing for five more night athletic competitions: October 7, October 12, October 14, October 22 and October 26 with lights off by 7:00 p.m. rather than 6:30 p.m. with the additional use of lights for competition substituted for and subtracted from the allocation of 15 evenings of light use for athletic practices.

Mr. Pratt said he supported the October solution but felt duty-bound to reconvene the lights committee to look at the situation moving forward.

Mr. Feeney asked how the cost of the increased utilization of lights would be covered. Dr. Shine said that an additional ½ hour five times during the month was negligible.

Mr. Nathan moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to use Policy 2430 to suspend provision number 4 and provision number 8 of Policy 7900 as stated, along with notice regarding sectional play provisions that remain part of the original paragraph. Ms. Mariani seconded the motion.

Mr. Culyer called for public comment. A member of the public who identified himself as a neighbor of the high school said he supported wholeheartedly this recommendation and urged the Board strongly to pick up on the broader proposal because it was going to get worse, with more students, girls soccer moving seasons, and overall field shortages, and asked the Board to formulate a policy that deals with scarce

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field space. He said he had collected signatures of 300 citizens of the community supporting the Superintendent's recommendation. He said the lighted stadium has had a positive impact on the community. (Attachment IV)

Mr. Culyer called for Board action on the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). (Attachment V)

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine said that this past Friday, Milton School participated in Caps for Kids day, raising awareness and funds for children with cancer. He noted that they, and their sponsors, raised \$612 that will go directly to children's cancer awareness funding.

Dr. Shine said that he was sure the Board joined him in offering congratulations to the Rye Middle and High School media specialists, JoAlyce Newgaard and Michael Kolesar, who have worked hard in transforming the schools' library, just designated an Electronic Doorway Library by the Commissioner of Education and the State Librarian. He noted that to be designated an advanced electronic doorway library a number of stringent criteria needed to be met, from the provision of data bases, library value-added resources, staff preparedness and training, and the provision of multi-level training about electronic resources for students and staff.

Mr. Zahm suggested that Dr. Shine also mention the new Osborn School playground, work on which was initiated over the weekend. Dr. Shine reported that at 8:45 that morning he had been at Osborn School to participate in a program recognizing former principal, Dr. Susan Klosek, in whose honor the playground had been given by the Osborn PTO. He said the program also celebrated the hard work of approximately 70 people, including Mr. Zahm, who had worked over the weekend on installing the playground. He noted that it was a twenty-first century playscape, and that it was expected that it would be completed by the end of the week. He offered congratulations to the school, the PTO, and Dr. Klosek for the vision for the playground.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Mariani stated that she had a communication to the Board. Mr. Culyer asked that she be willing to hold on discussing it so there would be time for it to go into the packet, enabling it to be presented as a Communication To/From the Board.

Mr. Culyer reported that the Facilities Committee had met and began responding to the charge to the committee of looking at the five-year plan. He said the meeting went well.

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 9:10 P.M. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk